

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 182106

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA BBCP SY

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM ALLIS-CHALMERS CHAIRMAN SCOTT

REF: DAMASCUS 2780, STATE 179427

FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM DAVID SCOTT TO AMBASSADOR: QUOTE: IN RETHINKING YOUR REQUEST FOR NAMES OF CONTACTS WE ALREADY HAVE IN SYRIA WHO MIGHT BE INCLUDED AS GUESTS AT THE LUNCHEON OR THE DINNER ON 7 AUGUST, THE FOLLOWING THREE NAMES COME TO MIND: MR. SAMIR MERHEJ AND HIS BROTHER MR. MERHEF MERHEJ, P.O. BOX 3137, DAMASCUS, TEL. NO. 335-074, AND MR. MOHAMAD AMIN TAFRAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE GENERAL ORGANIZATION FOR FODDER.

THE MERHEJ BROTHERS ARE BUSINESS ASSOCIATES OF THE KIKANO BROTHERS OF BEIRUT LEBANON AND TOGETHER WITH THE KIKANOS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SALE OF A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF ALLIS-CHALMERS AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT IN SYRIA. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET ONE OR BOTH OF THE MERHEJ BROTHERS AND EITHER THE LUNCHEON OR THE DINNER ON THE 7TH WOULD APPEAR TO BE A SUITABLE TIME FOR THIS.

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MR. TAFRAN LED A SYRIAN GROUP WHICH RECENTLY VISITED OUR

AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HEADQUARTERS AND PLANT IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN. WHILE THERE, MR. TAFRAN MET WITH SEVERAL OF OUR KEY EXECUTIVES IN THE AGRICULTURAL GROUP TO DISCUSS ALLIS-CHALMERS' CAPABILITY TO ASSIST IN SOLVING SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FOR WHICH HE HAS RESPONSIBILITY. SINCE I WAS NOT ABLE TO MEET WITH HIM IN MILWAUKEE, IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE HIM AS A GUEST AT EITHER THE LUNCHEON OR DINNER. I WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO LEAVE FINAL JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER TO INVITE MR. TAFRAN TO YOUR DISCRETION, RECOGNIZING THAT YOU PLAN TO INVITE KEY SECOND LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO THE LUNCHEON AND THEREFORE COULD BE FACED WITH THE ISSUE OF PROTOCOL.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON 7 AUGUST. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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